



# How Long Ago Did you Arrive in Japan?

Learn how to use Japanese verbs in the past affirmative form

Mark Complete



Also Appears In: [Conversational Japanese for Absolute Beginners](#)  
[Absolute Beginner Season 2](#)

Dialogue

Vocabulary

Lesson Notes

Grammar

Lesson Transcript

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## Dialogue - Japanese

Hide

Kanji

English

Rōmaji

All

(Taylor is talking to Chiem's mother on the phone.)

A: きのう、にほんにきました。

...はい、みんな、げんきです。

...メール、よみました。

あした、おとうさんと おかあさんの うちにいきます。

...おとうさん よろしく。

## Vocabulary

Hide

English

Kana

Rōmaji

いきます [いきます]

1 EXAMPLE

to go

6がつ、とうきょうにいきます。

I'm going to Tokyo in June.

よみます [よみます]

1 EXAMPLE

to read;V1

きょう、メールをよみます。

I will read your e-mail today.

おかあさん [おかあさん]

1 EXAMPLE

mother

ちえみさんのおかあさんはしゅふです。

Chiem's mother is a homemaker.

よろしく [よろしく]

1 EXAMPLE

best regards

ピーターによろしく。

Say hi to Peter.

げんき [げんき]

1 EXAMPLE

energetic, fine, healthy; Adj(na)

元気ですか。

How are you?

あした [あした]

1 EXAMPLE

tomorrow

あした、メキシコにいきます。

I will go to Mexico tomorrow.

みんな [みんな]

1 EXAMPLE

everyone, everybody

私はみんながだいすきです。

I love everyone.

メール [めーる]

1 EXAMPLE

mail, e-mail

きのう、メールがありました。

I received an e-mail yesterday.

きのう [きのう]

1 EXAMPLE

yesterday

きのう、バナナをたべました。

I ate a banana yesterday.

きます [きます]

1 EXAMPLE

to come;V3 -masu form

たなかさんはパーティーにきますか。

Is Mr./Ms. Tanaka coming to the party?

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## Lesson Notes

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### Lesson Focus

The Focus of This Lesson Is Talking about What You Did in the Past.

きのう、にほんにきました。

*Kinō, Nihon ni kimashita.*

"We came to Japan yesterday."

In this lesson, you'll learn how to talk about actions you did in the past using past tense verbs.

### Formal Past Tense Verbs

You already know how to make a formal present tense verb (*v-masu*) and its negative form (*v-masen*).

To make a formal past tense verb, all you need to do is take off the *-masu* and replace it with *-mashita*.

Every time you hear this *-mashita* ending, you'll know the speaker is talking about something that happened in the past.

### Formation

**v-masu** → **v-mashita**

For Example:

MEANING	NON-PAST	PAST TENSE
"to eat"	たべます	たべました
	<u>tabemasu</u>	<u>tabemashita</u>
	"eat"	"ate"
"to drink"	のみます	のみました
	<u>nomimasu</u>	<u>nomimashita</u>
	"drink"	"drank"
"to buy"	かいます	かいました
	<u>kaimasu</u>	<u>kaimashita</u>
	"buy"	"bought"
"to go"	いきます	いきました
	<u>ikimasu</u>	<u>ikimashita</u>
	"go"	"went"
"to come"	きます	きました
	<u>kimasu</u>	<u>kimashita</u>
	"come"	"came"

"I went to the zoo."

To make the above kind of sentence, all you have to do is make a normal *-masu* sentence and change the verb to *-mashita*.

To be specific about when you did the action, you can add a time word such as *きのう (kinō)*, which means "yesterday."

### Formation

**[Person] wa [thing/place] o ni [verb-mashita] → "[Person] [verb-past] [thing/to place]"**

For Example:

- きのう、えいがをみました。  
*Kinō, eiga o mimashita.*  
"I watched a movie yesterday."
- あねはスカートをかいました。  
*Ane wa sukāto o kaimashita.*  
"My big sister bought a skirt."
- たなかさんはなごやにきました。  
*Tanaka-san wa Nagoya ni ikimashita.*  
"Mr. Tanaka went to Nagoya."

### Reference

Please also review the following grammar points.

- Genki desu* → Absolute Beginner Season 2 Lesson 6
- Talking about doing an action (verbs) → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 21
- Asking about doing an action (verbs in question sentences) → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 22
- ikimasu* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 23

### Key Vocabulary & Phrases

★ **[person] ~に**よろしく (*ni yoroshiku*)

This phrase is a fairly informal way of saying "Give my regards to [person]" or "Say hi to [person] for me."

★ **きのう、きょう、あした** (*kinō, kyō, ashita*)

Because there's no specific future verb tense in Japanese that directly corresponds to "will [verb]" or "going to [verb]," there are many times when you only know when something is taking place in a present tense sentence thanks to a "time word," such as *kyō* ("today") or *ashita* ("tomorrow"). *Kinō* means "yesterday."

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## Grammar

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Below is a list of the grammar points introduced or used in this lesson. Click for a full explanation.

動詞の活用 (マス形) doushi no katsuyou (masu form)

Conjugation of verbs (masu form)

Introduced

動詞の活用 (マス形) doushi no katsuyou (masu form)

Conjugation of verbs (masu form)

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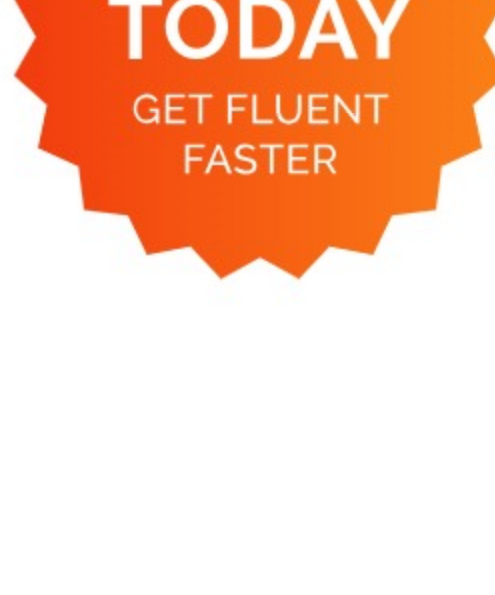
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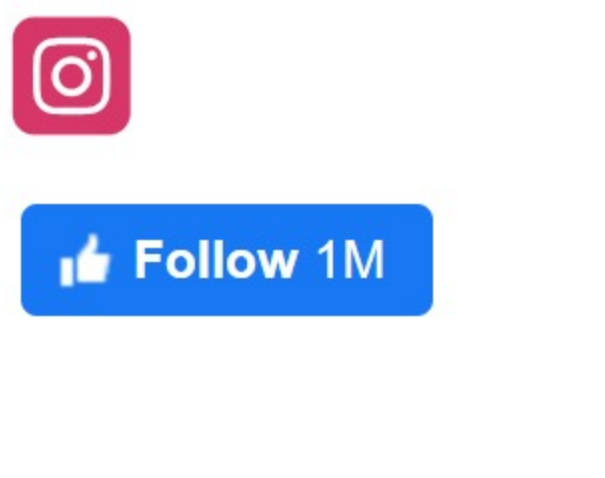
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